

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

## WHAT ACTORS AND SINGERS ARE DOING TO AMUSE THE PUBLIC.

Last Week's Events—The Choral Society Concert—This Week's Bills—A Novelty at Albaugh's—General Notes of the Stage.

An atmosphere of Bronson Howard prevailed at the principal theatres last week, and as a consequence the public could not withstand the temptations offered to turn out in numbers. At the National Theatre "Shenandoah" played to "standing room only" throughout the week and created the same favorable impression made in New York and other cities where it has been seen. "Shenandoah," as its name would indicate, deals with incidents of the war, but in dealing with those incidents the romance of the story is presented in a beautifully effective manner. It is the story of love, but it is love under circumstances entirely novel to stage productions. Only the pen of an author and playwright of the attainments of Mr. Howard could have surmounted the difficulties which are to be encountered in presenting an impartial picture of a fragment of the War of the Rebellion so as to meet the popular taste. The nicety with which he has handled those scenes in "Shenandoah" and the exquisite blending throughout the play of love, pathos, comedy, and action place it among the great productions of the day. The company presenting the piece last week, while in some parts not preëminently strong, gave a most even performance. Mr. Francis Carlyle as Col. Kerchival West is seen to better advantage than ever before. Mr. Harry Harwood as Maj. Gen. Buckthorn is a typical commanding officer, and Mr. James O. Barrows as Sgt. Barker carries the broader comedy of the piece most successfully. Miss Nanette Comstock as Jennie Buckthorn is charmingly easy, natural, and vivacious, and Miss Netta Guion as Gertrude Ellingham is excellent as the spirited Southern girl. The scenery and effects are very striking, notably those representing the signal from Three Top Mountain and Sheridan's ride.

"The Henrietta," which held the boards at Albaugh's Grand Opera House last week, is another of Mr. Bronson Howard's clever dramatic productions. It is a comedy of the higher order with a plot of the keenest interest. There is no heroic treatment necessary for its proper presentation. In the hands of a competent company it works out its own story in a quiet and unpretentious way that is quite refreshing. Such a company presented the play last week. As Bertie, the lamb, Mr. Bobson has been seen here on several former occasions, and every one is familiar with the quaint individuality of his personations. Mr. George S. Woodward's Nicholas Vanastyne appeared as an able effort to those who could separate his identity with the part of Rev. Murray Hilton, which he has heretofore so successfully played with the company. Mr. Edw. J. Ratcliffe as Nicholas Vanastyne, Jr., was very effective, especially in his death scene, and Mr. Stanislaus Strange as Dr. Wainwright did good work. Of the ladies Miss May Waldron as Mrs. Opydyke and Miss Olive May as Agnes appeared to the best advantage, though as a matter of fact every member of the company contributed to the general excellence of the performance.

The choice of "The Messiah" for the opening of the Washington Choral Society's eighth season was an auspicious one, for it was alike a fresh warrant of the earnest purposes, the high aims of the society, and a gratification to the musical people of the city of a kind that they have not for a long time enjoyed. The performance was in many respects of great merit. The chorus entered upon its work with an evident enthusiasm that had a basis of careful preparation. The elaborate fugal choruses, a chief test of careful study, were sung with abundant precision and confidence of attack, and though there were one or two passages in which a misunderstanding with the orchestra threatened disaster, the familiarity of the singers with their work averted it. Mr. Sherman departed from the usual custom in his cuts, and gave several of the choruses that are rarely heard. Such, for instance, is "By His Stripes We Are Healed." It is in volume and quality of tone that the chorus has its shortcomings, yet in several instances it rose to exceptional power, as in the "Hallelujah" chorus and the "Amen." The soloists were from well-known Boston singers, several of whom had been heard here before. Miss Gertrude Edwards is one of the most artistic singers the Choral Society has ever brought to this city, and her singing in "The Messiah" in many respects surpassed anything she has ever done here. Mrs. Walker had not been heard here. Her singing shows experience in the demands of oratorio, but her voice is somewhat unpleasant in quality, especially in the higher register, and there are equally unpleasant faults in both her method and style. She won her greatest success in "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth," in which she evinced no little ripe artistic insight. Mr. Johnson, the tenor, has a voice of suave and delightful quality, but his lack of distinction and depth of conception showed that he was traversing unfamiliar fields in the score of "The Messiah." He contributed in no small measure, however, to the evening's performance. The bass singer in "The Messiah" was comparatively little to do; Mr. Morawski, who was evidently suffering from a cold, did it with a certain heaviness and inflexibility. "Why Do the Nations Rage?" and the great solo with trumpet obligato he sang creditably. The orchestra, doubtless the best organization of the kind to be secured here for this class of work, lacked much in refinement and finish, and at times overpowered the chorus. The audience, which was both large and brilliant, gave frequent tokens of their warm appreciation of the performance throughout the evening.

**Albaugh's—The Lilliputians.**  
To-morrow evening the Lilliputians will begin an engagement at Albaugh's. This company, which has played in New York for the past ten weeks to a succession of crowded houses, comes to Washington for the first time. The press has been universal in its praise of these artists, and everywhere they have played they have created a sensation. The company consists of the only ten midget actors in the world, their ages ranging from eighteen to forty-three years, while in height they range from twenty-eight to thirty-eight inches. The midgets comprise Misses Selma Groener, 31 inches high; Ida Mahr, 34 inches; Bertha Jaeger, 34 inches; Minnie Becker, 37 inches; Tonsie Meister, 32 inches; Messrs. Johann Wolf, 33 inches; Max Walter, 36 inches; Hermann Ring, 34 inches; Adolf Zule, 31 inches; and Franz Ebert, 28 inches. The midgets and supporting company of nearly two hundred artists form an excellent ensemble.

The company will present in Washington their most successful spectacular play, "The Pupil in Magic," which has been given in New York over one hundred times. The rich costumes, magnificent scenery, the catchy music, the wonderful scenic effects, combined with two beautiful and original ballets, will make it a notable sight worthy of being seen by everybody. There will be two matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, and the regular prices of the theatre will prevail.

**Jefferson and Florence.**  
At the New National Theatre to-morrow night will begin the most important dramatic event of the present season, the engagement for one week only of the Joseph Jefferson and W. J. Florence Comedy Company. They will open in "The Rivals," repeating the same on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and Saturday matinee, and on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights "The Heir-at-Law," in which Mr. Jefferson will present his characterization of Dr. Pangloss, LL.D., and A.S.S., and Mr. Florence as Eschiel Home-spoon. The supporting company consists of Mrs. John Drew, Mrs. Ponis, Viola Allen, Elsie Lombard, F. C. Bangs, Frederick Paulding, F. C. Ross, George W. Denham, and Joseph Warren. Of their performance in "The Rivals" the New York Press has the following: "That quaint and delightful old comedy, 'The Rivals,' has been the means of many triumphs on both the American and English stages, but it probably never was more warmly received or more perfectly acted than at the Star Theatre last evening. The combination of such brilliant comedians as Joseph Jefferson, W. J. Florence, and Mrs. John Drew in one company is a great rarity."

**Albaugh's Christmas Attraction.**  
"Poor Jonathan," the New York Casino's newest success, will be presented at Albaugh's the week of December 22 by Aronson's opera company. The name is a guarantee of the ability of the company, as his companies are always good. Among the artists in the "Poor Jonathan" company are Miss Darville, Miss Marie Halton, Mr. Jack Ryley, Fred Solomon, Henry Hallam, and many others of equally good calibre. In speaking of the opera "Poor Jonathan" the press of New York were unanimous in approval, as were those of Philadelphia. Speaking of the production, the Times, of Philadelphia, says: "Camille Darville made a genuine hit. As Harriett she has situations which offer her bright vivacity its own scope and a singing part that suits her exactly. Her airs in the first act were most successfully rendered, but in the second act she quite took the crowded house by storm, and was recalled three times after her bravura aria. Fred Solomon made a confident, active, and satisfactory Jonathan, fitting in his work admirably to Marie Halton's really capital Molly. 'Poor Jonathan,' though anglicized, is still German. But its central idea is very strong, and after last night's performance its success in New York is no surprise." The scenery and costumes which Mr. Aronson provides are quite magnificent, and it should be stated that the drilling of the West Point cadets in the third act would bring a tribute from Gen. Miles himself.

**Kernan's Theatre.**  
Noted burlesque queens, American and European specialty stars, and the funniest comedians, together with new features, rich scenery, and handsome costumes, make the Henry Burlesque Company, which will open at Kernan's to-morrow night for one week only, one of the most brilliant and talented organizations travelling. Strong in vocal talent, and comprising the rarest terpsichorean artists, the company will provide one of the richest entertainments of



the season. Its first part, entitled "The Reception at the Art Gallery," is unequalled in scenic splendor, while the olio is the most excellent ever presented. The burlesque, "The Gondoliers; or, The King of Ku-Fu-Ku-Ra," a travesty on Gilbert and Sullivan's operatic success, will be produced with careful attention to detail, including an excellent cast, headed by McIntyre and Heath, the black-face comedians. It abounds in funny situations, pretty scenes, and striking tableaux, and is replete with new songs, new music, sensational dances, and graceful marches. Ladies' matinees Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Next week, the Sensational Boom Model Burlesque Company.

**"Fabio Romani" at Harris's.**  
A woman's perfidy forms the theme of Aiden Benedict's "Fabio Romani," which has gained praises of a warmth that few dramatic ventures are fortunate enough to merit. It will be seen at Harris's this week. The plot is one of intense interest, and it deals with human passion in a startling manner. A husband supposed to be dead returns to find his honor betrayed by one whom he had esteemed his nearest friend. He at once enters upon a relentless pursuit of revenge, and as a first step wins the woman from her lover, she never suspecting that he is her own husband disguised. He kills his false friend and conspires his wife to a living tomb. An earthquake forms the closing climax of the play, and it is described as one of the most terrific pieces of realism yet attempted on the stage. The company is one of uniform strength.

## Notes of the Stage.

Julia Marlowe is almost well after her recent dangerous illness.  
London critics say Sardou's "Cleopatra" is the weakest of his plays.  
Digby Bell and his wife, Laura Joyce-Bell, are to join the McCaull Opera Company.  
Francis Wilson closed a highly successful four weeks' season in "The Merry Monarch" in Boston last night.  
Ada Rohan, whom somebody, by the way, charges with being over forty, has just invested in a \$30,000 house in New York.  
From France comes a gossip story of a suit brought by a dressmaker, Mme. Fannie Vincent, against the portly but vivacious Mme. Judic. The dressmaker wants 20,000 francs in settlement

of her bill. This is said to include a large variety of articles, among them being "invisible night corsets," "luminous Japanese petticoats," and other strikingly unusual luxuries.

Edith Wanda Godson, a ballet girl at the London Alhambra, has been bequeathed \$5,000 cash and \$10,000 a year for life by the will of a Welsh merchant.

Hereafter every theatrical company playing in Georgia will have to sock \$25, and the State expects to reap a revenue of at least \$30,000 a year from the players.

Edward Harrigan's new theatre in West Thirty-fifth street, New York, will be opened on December 22 with a new piece called "Reilly and the Four Hundred."

Chicago has placed its indorsement on Richard Mansfield's "Beau Brummel." This counts for more than Chicago's indorsement on a World's Fair check these days.

W. H. Crane will continue his term as "Senator" at the New York Star Theatre until February 23. No less than four new plays are now being written to order for Mr. Crane.

The spectacle of "Nero," which has of late been having a good deal of trouble about its financial end, will be moved from Niblo's Garden to the Broadway Theatre to-morrow night.

"Erminie" was a failure in Germany. If Pauline Hall had been in it its fate might have been different. Her real name is Stauffenhaus, and she came from over the Rhine—(Cincinnati.)

"Dr. Bill" has been the attraction at the new Madison Square Garden Theatre, New York, since that gorgeous house opened many weeks ago, and Ella Wheeler Wilcox has just discovered that it is an immoral play.

Fanny Davenport's production of "Cleopatra" is to have a grand ballet and chorus and panoramic features which will involve the use of fifteen hundred yards of canvas. The panorama will be produced by an entirely new process.

Young Clyde Fitch, author of "Beau Brummel," has made another success with his short sketch, "Frederick Lemaitre," which was presented by the Rosina Vokes Company in Boston recently. The critics were warm in their praise of it.

Miss Marie Decca will appear in a grand benefit concert tendered the baritone Signor L. F. Sabatelli, in Chickering Hall, New York, on Monday evening. Campanini, Mme. Emelia Cosenza, Mile. Rocella Einstein, and others will also assist. This is Campanini's first public appearance since the complete restoration of his voice.

Mr. J. M. Hill's "Clemenceau Case Company," which takes the road Monday, will be headed by Maurice Barrymore and Estelle Clayton, as Pierre and Ivo respectively. Special scenery has been prepared from the original Parisian models. The play itself is a correct translation of Dumas' great work, free from all the vulgarisms which arrayed public decency against the version presented in New York some time ago.

The Marine Band appeared in Philadelphia last night, under the leadership of Professor Sousa, in the "Star" concert course. The occasion was especially notable because of the fact that Professor Sousa played for the first time his new symphonic poem descriptive of the chariot race from "Ben Hur." Professor Sousa regards this latest composition of his as the best work he has yet done, and a despatch from Philadelphia last night said that its rendering by the Marine Band was received with great favor by the audience.

## A PLEASANT EVENT.

Oriental Lodge No. 6, K. of P., of Alexandria, Entertains Its Friends.

Alexandria's social season was enlivened Thursday night by the soiree and reception at Armory Hall of the social circle of Oriental Lodge No. 6, K. of P. Exactly at 9 o'clock Caldwell's band of eight pieces struck up the grand march, which was led by Mayor Downham and Miss Smith. At 12 o'clock a reception was held. The supper tables were laden with all the good things of the season. Among those who attended were Mayor Downham, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Lucas, Miss Burns, of Richmond; Miss Emma Lucas, Miss Annie Cross, of Washington; Miss Grace Anelli, Mrs. Charles R. Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Herbert, Miss Sallie Dwyer, Mr. and Mrs. John Donnelly and Miss Nettie Donnelly, Miss Maggie McDonough, of Washington; Mrs. James H. Loh, and the Misses Mabel and Amy Loh, Mrs. Henry Wildt and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Steele, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Barden, Maj. George Duffey, Mr. and Mrs. F. Schwab, the Misses Darling, Misses Annie and Wealthy Knight, Miss Bessie Bowler, the Misses Crump, the Misses Stoddard, Miss Maud Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Baker, Miss Carrie Simpson, Miss Minnie Schlichting, Mr. and Mrs. James McCuen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Padgett, Miss Annie Evans, the Misses Hepburn, Miss Effie Cline, of Richmond; Miss Alice Dobie, Miss Stella Cline, Dr. and Mrs. Cox, Misses Susie, Katie, and Cora Webster, Mr. Charles Webster, of Washington; Messrs. Edgar Thompson, James Penn, Capt. W. H. Smith, Lieut. James Smith, William Schuler, F. J. Paft, Thomas Ballenger, Robert Wentzel, Jacob Brill, Auditor E. F. Price, E. S. Coakley, John Hough, William Rudd, and many others.

## Art Notes.

During the past week the Cosmos club-rooms have been at the disposal of the Washington Camera Club, and the latter have exhibited there the collection of photographs by H. P. Robinson, Esq., Tunbridge Wells, England. Some of the pictures are very fine, and the Washington Club are enjoying this rare collection through the courtesy of Henry N. Sweet, president of the Boston Camera Club. Some of these photographic pictures have all the charms of artistically designed scenes.

Mr. E. F. Andrews, the celebrated artist, is completing what promises to be a fine portrait of Senator Voorhees. Although Mr. Andrews insists that the picture is scarcely more than commenced, at a reasonable distance one sees the Senator at his best, erect and dignified in pose, with that gentility of expression that is seldom absent, the folds of his pelerine gracefully arranged over the arm.

Last week Caroline Ransom, the artist, sold one of her choicest pictures for a bridal present to a son of Judge Cowles, of San Francisco. The subject was a view from the Blue Room of the White House. It includes two columns of the south porch and a lovely autumnal landscape, with the Monument and the Virginia hills in perspective.

**The Great Auction Event of the Season**  
Perhaps the most interesting and largely attended auction sale that takes place in our city during the year is the annual dead-letter sale. It is hardly necessary to explain to Washingtonians what comprises a dead-letter sale and how it is conducted, as it is considered the thing to attend this sale of curiosities, therefore the majority of us know from experience. This sale is now arranged to take place at the rooms of Ratcliffe, Darr & Co., 920 Pennsylvania avenue, beginning at 10 A. M. to-morrow morning, December 15, 1890, and lasting throughout the week.

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